

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FRB-03

H-03 INR-11 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00

PRS-01 SP-03 FEAE-00 OMB-01 SWF-02 DRC-01 EURE-00

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O 171204Z JUL 74

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7226

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EC

SUBJECT: EC BANS BEEF IMPORTS

1. ON JULY 16 THE EC COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS, BOWING TO
INTENSE PRESSURES FROM FARMERS, BANNED THE ISSUANCE OF IMPORT
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LICENCES FOR ALL TYPES OF BEEF, VEAL AND LIVE CATTLE FROM ALL

THIRD COUNTRIES EXCEPT FOR GATT-BOUND QUOTAS. THIS BAN
APPLIES FROM JULY 16 TO OCT. 31, 1974.

2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE COUNCIL VOTE ON THE IMPORT BAN WAS
VIRTUALLY
UNANIMOUS, WITH TWO MEMBER STATES (THE UK AND THE NETHERLANDS OR
DENMARK)
ABSTAINING. THE COUNCIL OVERRULED THE OBJECTIONS OF THE COMMISSION
WHICH HAD REFUSED TO MEET THE REQUESTS OF CERTAIN MEMBER STATES
FOR BANNING IMPORTS.

3. IN A DISCUSSION WITH A MISSION OFFICER, AVERY, A MEMBER OF
SOAMES' CABINET, DESCRIBED SOAMES AS "FURIOUS" OVER THE COUNCIL
ACTION. AVERY SAID THAT THE COUNCIL HAD ACTED "IRRESPONSIBLY".
SOAMES TOLD AMBASSADOR GREENWALD THERE IS STILL ENOUGH PROTECTIONIST
SENTIMENT LEFT IN EUROPE AND PARTICULARLY FRANCE SO THEY SEEK TO
SHIFT THE BURDEN TO OUTSIDE COUNTRIES (BY IMPORT RESTRICTIONS) WHEN
DIFFICULT SITUATIONS ARISE.

4. LARDINOIS, IN A PRESS BRIEFING, SAID THAT THE COMMUNITY WILL
DEFEND THE IMPORT BAN IN GATT ON JULY 17. HE SAID THE COMMUNITY
"HAS A VERY GOOD CASE" FOR JUSTIFYING THE MEASURE WHICH WILL NOT
APPLY
TO FROZEN BEEF AND LIVE CATTLE IMPORTED UNDER QUOTAS BOUND IN GATT.

5. PEART, THE UK MINISTER, DOWNPLAYED THE IMPORT BAN. HE AND OTHER
UK OFFICIALS MAINTAINED THAT THE "JUMELAGE" SYSTEM FOR IMPORT
(UNDER WHICH IMPORTERS MUST PURCHASE A QUANTITY OF INTERVENTION
BEEF EQUIVALENT TO THE VOLUME OF IMPORTS) HAS ALREADY SEVERELY
RESTRICTED IMPORTS AND THEREFORE THE BAN WILL HAVE LITTLE ECONOMIC
EFFECT.

6. FURTHER DETAILS ON THE OUTCOME OF THE JULY 15-17 MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS FOLLOW BY SEPTEL.
GREENWALD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: IMPORT CONTROLS, MEATS, IMPORT LICENSES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ECBRU05317
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740191-0890
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740742/aaaabkah.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 APR 2002 by worrelsw>; APPROVED <20 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EC BANS BEEF IMPORTS
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005